

## *Novels for Child Development & Parenting Course*

1. *Accidents of Nature* by Harriet McBryde Johnson, Henry Holt & Co., 2006, 0805076344.  
A teenager with cerebral palsy attends “crip camp” and has several eye-opening experiences. Issues of race, feminism, identity and sexuality are looked at as well.
2. *Baby Help* by Marilyn Reynolds, Morning Glory Press, 1997, 1885356277.  
Melissa is a teen mom, living with her boyfriend and his mother, and trying to finish high school when the boyfriend is physically and verbally abusive to her and their child. Good parenting techniques are incorporated into the narration.
3. *The Bean Trees: A Novel* by Barbara Kingsolver, Harper Torch, 1998, 0061097314.  
Taylor leaves home to drive west and becomes the mother of an abandoned baby. She finds that independence, motherhood, and responsibility are a huge challenge.
4. *Detour for Emmy* by Marilyn Reynolds, Morning Glory Press, 1993, 0930934768.  
Emmy is finding her life needs to take a detour after finding herself pregnant when she has plans to go to college. Most teenagers will hope not to be diverted by similar obstacles on the road as they growing up.
5. *The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline Cooney, Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 1996, 038532328X.  
Janie Johnson sees a picture of herself on the side of a milk carton and knows she is that child. Jane finds the courage to contact her biological parents.
6. *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson, Simon Pulse, 2004, 0689849230.  
Bobby is a 16 year-old father trying to raise his infant daughter and stay in school. The circumstances of Bobby and his little girl Feather are told with alternating chapters of present circumstances and flashbacks to his relationship with his girlfriend and how he decided to keep his daughter and raise her on his own.
7. *Hanging onto Max* by Margaret Bechard, Simon Pulse, 2003, 0689862687.  
Sam is a 17 year-old unwed father juggling the responsibilities of parenthood and going to school. The teen’s conflicting roles are described as well as flashbacks that reveal events which led to his present circumstances.
8. *Heaven* by Angela Johnson, Simon Pulse, 2000, 0689822901.  
Marley’s world is turned upside-down when she discovers the people she has been living with are not her real parents. She continues on a quest to find out what truly makes a family.
9. *Homecoming* by Cynthia Voight, Simon Pulse, 2002, 0689851324

Four children are abandoned by their mother somewhere in Connecticut. They manage to find their way to aunt Cilla's house and find that she has died and find a home with her daughter, Eunice.

10. *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan, Penguin, 2006, 0143038095.  
This story shows the everyday conflicts of ethnic parents raising American children. The parents refer back to their childhoods and experiences in China.
11. *Make Lemonade* by Virginia Euwer Wolff, Henry Holt & Co., 2006, 0805080708.  
A 14-year old girl starts babysitting the children of a teenage mother, Jolly. She convinces her to go back to school which gives her hope and changes her life.
12. *Miracle on 49<sup>th</sup> Street* by Mike Lupica, Philomel, 2006, 0399244883.  
A 12-year-old girl comes to America after the death of her mother and confronts her biological father. Josh, her father, happens to be the star point guard for the Boston Celtics. The story follows their relationship as it develops.
13. *One Whole and Perfect Day* by Judith Clarke, Front Street, 2007, 1932425950.  
Lilly feels both love and embarrassment about her eccentric family, and longs for "one whole and perfect day" where her family comes together and finds happiness.
14. *Our Sixth Grade Sugar Babies* by Eve Bunting, Harper Trophy, 1992, 0064403904.  
The 6<sup>th</sup> graders each assume full responsibility during an entire week for their "sugar babies", 5 pound bags of sugar dressed in baby clothes. Vicky gets rid of her baby so the new boy across the street doesn't see her with it, then she has to deal with the consequences of what she has done.
15. *Side Effects* by Amy Goldman Koss, Roaring Book Press, 2006, 1596432942.  
Isabella is a typical teenager who is diagnosed with cancer, and the story describes how she handles it while still holding onto hope for a future.
16. *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2002, 0060935464.  
This is a story set in Alabama during the depression and is told through the eyes of an eight-year-old child. It is a story about race, class, justice and the pain of growing up.
17. *Under the Same Sky* by Cynthia DeFelice, Farrar. Straus and Giroux, 2005, 0374480656.  
Joe joins the migrant workers on his father's farm to earn money for a motorbike. Joe is forced into decisions that test his courage, character, and values; and eventually earns his father's respect for breaking the law.

18. *Waiting for Normal* by Leslie Connor, Katherine Tegen Books, 2008, 0060890886.  
Addie is a heroine who is optimistic and full of spunk. Within the topic of child neglect, a positive father-figure/daughter relationship is developed in the story.
19. *What the Moon Saw* by Laura Resau, Yearling, 2008, 0440239575.  
Clara Luna is a 14-year-old who goes to Mexico to spend the summer with her grandparents. Clara's impressions of her father's past are developed as she finds adventures in Mexico and gets to know the grandparents she has never met.
20. *Whatever Happened to Janie?* By Caroline Cooney, Laurel Leaf, 1994, 0440219248.  
This book is the sequel to "A Face on the Milk Carton" where Janie actually goes to live with her biological parents and four siblings. Janie ultimately chooses which family she is going to live with based on her own feelings.

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